

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently amended). A polymeric construct comprising an alginic acid or salt thereof ~~a polysaccharide~~ polymer having ~~a selected medicament entrapped therewithin~~ insulin associated therewith, prepared from a preparation consisting essentially of said polymer and said insulin.

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice.

Claim 2 (Cancelled). The construct as defined in claim 1 wherein said polymer comprises alginic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Please cancel claim 3 without prejudice.

Claim 3 (Cancelled). The construct as defined in claim 1 wherein said medicament comprises a protein or peptide medicament having a molecular size ranging from about 1K Dalton to about 150K Daltons.

Please cancel claim 4 without prejudice.

Claim 4 (Cancelled). The construct as defined in claim 3 wherein said medicament comprises insulin.

Please cancel claim 5 without prejudice.

Claim 5 (Cancelled). The construct as defined in claim 3 wherein said medicament comprises insulin.

Please amend claim 6 as follows:

Claim 6 (Currently amended). The construct of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein said polymer is present in an amount of about 0.0000001 to about 10 percent by weight of said construct.

Please amend claim 7 as follows:

Claim 7 (Currently amended). A method of preparing the construct of claim 1 which comprises, combining said polymer with said ~~medicament~~ insulin to form a mixture; subjecting said mixture to agitation or mixing at a temperature of about -5 to about 28°C for about 0.1 to about 96 hours to form the construct.

Please amend claim 8 as follows:

Claim 8 (Currently amended). A method of preparing the construct of claim 1 which comprises, dissolving said polymer and said ~~medicament~~ insulin in a solvent to form a solution; exposing said solution to a critical pressure and temperature while mixing with a suitable anti-solvent to form the construct.

Please amend claim 9 as follows:

Claim 9 (Currently amended). A method of preparing the construct of claim 1 which comprises, dispersing said polymer in a solution of said ~~medicament~~ insulin to form a dispersion; subjecting said dispersion to a critical pressure and temperature while mixing with an appropriate anti-solvent to separate the construct after about 0.0001 to about 24 hours.

Please amend claim 10 as follows:

Claim 10 (Currently amended). A method of preparing the construct of claim 1 which comprises, dissolving said polymer in a solution of said ~~medicament~~ insulin to form a polymer solution and drying said polymer solution as a spray for about 0.1 to about 8 hours.

Claim 11 (Original). The method as defined in claim 8 wherein particles of such construct range from under 20 micrometers, to under 10 micrometers in diameter.

Claim 12 (Original). The method as defined in claim 9 wherein particles of such construct are under 20 micrometers in diameter.

Claim 13 (Original). The method as defined in claim 10 wherein particles of such construct are about 10 micrometers to about 20 micrometers in diameter.

Claim 14 (Original). The method as defined in claim 11 wherein particles of such construct range from under 10 micrometers to about 20 micrometers in diameter.